

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 1 and 2 without prejudice or disclaimer and rewrite the allowable claims 3, 5-7, 10, and 17 into their respective independent forms.

As preliminary matters, Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority and for indicating receipt of the certified copy of the Priority Document. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for returning the initialed forms PTO/SB/08 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 1, 2003, November 29, 2004 and February 19, 2008. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for indicating acceptance of the drawing figures filed on October 1, 2003.

Claims 1 and 2 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and claims 3-19 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, Applicant places this application in condition for immediate allowance.

Specifically, Applicant does not acquiesce to the Examiner's reasons for rejecting claims 1 and 2. However, to expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application and without commenting on the substantive merits of the Examiner's rejections, Applicant rewrites allowable claims 3, 5-7, 10, and 17 into their independent forms. Accordingly, as acknowledged by the Examiner, independent claims 3, 5-7, 10, and 17 are now allowable. Claims 4, 8, 9, 11-16, 18, and 19 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

In view of the above, reconsideration and immediate allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. **If any points remain in issue, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.**

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/Nataliya Dvorson/
Nataliya Dvorson
Registration No. 56,616

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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